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Letter dated 26 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Mr. Mariano Rajoy on 25 September 2012 in the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and the annexed statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) Mark **Lyall Grant**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

12-52479 (E) 031012

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Annex to the letter dated 26 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Prime Minister of Spain in the general debate on 25 September 2012

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recalls its sovereignty over Gibraltar and the territorial waters surrounding it and reaffirms that as a separate territory, recognized by the United Nations and included since 1946 in its list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, Gibraltar enjoys the individual and collective rights accorded by the Charter of the United Nations. The 2006 Gibraltar Constitution provides for a modern and mature relationship between Gibraltar and the United Kingdom. This description would not apply to any relationship based on colonialism.

The United Kingdom restates its long-standing commitment to the people of Gibraltar that it will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another State against their wishes. The United Kingdom also confirms that it will not enter into a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar is not content.

The United Kingdom notes that both it and Gibraltar desire to continue the Trilateral Forum for Dialogue, as the most credible, constructive and practical means of strengthening United Kingdom-Gibraltar-Spain relations for the benefit of all parties, but the United Kingdom recognizes that the Forum cannot continue in the absence of agreement between all parties to its resumption. The United Kingdom regrets the fact that the Government of Spain withdrew from those talks in 2011 and stands ready to explore new ways of taking forward dialogue and cooperation on issues of mutual importance by any means that fully reflect the interests, rights and responsibilities of the people of Gibraltar.

The United Kingdom continues to enjoy strong relations with Spain and will continue to work constructively on all Gibraltar-related issues.